

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical ~~Optical~~ compensator for liquid crystal displays comprising
 - at least one O plate retarder,
 - at least one planar A plate retarder, and
 - at least one negative C plate retarder,wherein the A plate and the O plate have substantially the same retardation.
2. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising one O plate, one planar A plate and two negative C plates.
3. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising one O plate, one planar A plate and one negative C plate, with the C plate situated between the O plate and the planar A plate.
4. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the average tilt angle θ_{ave} in said O plate retarder is ~~from~~ 2 to 88°.
5. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the tilt angle in said O plate retarder varies monotonously ~~monotonously~~ in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the film from a minimum value θ_{min} at one surface of the film to a maximum value θ_{max} at the opposite surface of the film.
6. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein θ_{min} is ~~from~~ 0 to 80°.
7. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 5, ~~characterized in~~

that wherein θ_{\max} is ~~from~~ 10 to 90°.

8. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the thickness of said O plate and/or planar A plate is ~~from~~ 0.1 to 10 μm .

9. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the optical retardation of said O plate is ~~from 6 to 300 nm~~ 20 to 30 nm.

10. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the optical retardation of said planar A plate is ~~from 12 to 575 nm~~ 20 to 300 nm.

11. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the O plate comprises a linear or crosslinked polymerized liquid crystalline material with a tilted or splayed structure.

12. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the planar A plate comprises ~~comprise~~ a linear or crosslinked polymerized liquid crystalline material with a planar structure.

13. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the C plates is a negatively birefringent polymer film.

14. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said polymer film is a negatively birefringent TAC or DAC film.

15. (Currently Amended) The optical ~~Optical~~ compensator according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the C plate comprises a linear or crosslinked polymerized chiral liquid crystalline material with a helically twisted structure.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The optical~~ Optical compensator according to claim 15,
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the helical pitch of the chiral liquid crystalline material is said
C plate is less than 250 nm.

17. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising the following elements

- a liquid crystal cell formed by two transparent substrates having surfaces which oppose each other, an electrode layer provided on the inside of at least one of said two transparent substrates and optionally superposed with an alignment layer, and a liquid crystal medium which is present between the two transparent substrates,
- a polarizer arranged outside said transparent substrates, or a pair of polarizers sandwiching said substrates, and
- at least one optical compensator according to claim 1 being situated between the liquid crystal cell and at least one of said polarizers,

it being possible for the above elements to be separated, stacked, mounted on top of each other, coated on top of each other or connected by means of adhesive layers.

18. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 17,
~~characterized in that it~~ which is a TN, HTN or STN display.

Please add the following new claims:

--19. (New) An optical compensator for liquid crystal displays comprising

- at least one O plate retarder,
- at least one planar A plate retarder, and
- at least one negative C plate retarder,

wherein the A plate and the O plate have the same retardation.

20. (New) An optical compensator for liquid crystal displays comprising

- at least one O plate retarder,

- at least one planar A plate retarder, and
- at least one negative C plate retarder,

wherein the negative C plate comprises a linear or crosslinked polymerized chiral liquid crystalline material with a helically twisted structure having a helical pitch of less than 250 nm.

21. (New) An optical compensator for liquid crystal displays comprising

- at least one O plate retarder,
- at least one planar A plate retarder, and
- at least two negative C plate retarders.

22. (New) An optical compensator for liquid crystal displays comprising

- at least one O plate retarder,
- at least one planar A plate retarder, and
- at least one negative C plate retarder,

wherein the C plate is situated between the O plate and the planar A plate.--